

The  
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**POST GRADUATE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS**

**SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP**

**DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**MDS 509: DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND POLICY FORMULATION IN  
AFRICA**

**DATE: 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

**MAXIMUM MARKS: 60**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your registration number on the answer booklet.
2. **DO NOT** write on this question paper.
3. This paper contains **FOUR (4)** questions.
4. Question **ONE** is compulsory.
5. Answer any other **TWO** questions.
6. Question **ONE** carries **30 MARKS** and the rest carry **15 MARKS** each.
7. Write all your answers in the Examination answer booklet provided

**QUESTION ONE**

**Read the Case Study below carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

Development planning predates independence in some African countries, and remains an enduring feature of the policymaking landscape. Unlike developed countries, where planning seeks to fine-tune the economy, planning in developing and crisis-affected countries is tasked with a more transformative role due to pervasive institutional weaknesses and market failures that exist in those contexts. Invariably, committed leadership, strong institutions and a capable bureaucracy are the lynchpins of successful plans. Leadership is critically important for setting the vision and direction of the development agenda. Institutions reinforce the vision through norm setting and internalizing the values that are consistent with their vision, while bureaucracies and individual capacities are the implementation machinery.

Development planning requires coordination and priority-setting to achieve its stated objectives. The relative roles of Governments and markets in carrying out these tasks determine the extent to which a plan can be described as centrally planned or indicative. Centralized planning was the predominant paradigm of the immediate post-independence era, but has since ceded ground to mixed planning approaches. Systematic planning was, however, neglected for much of the period from the 1970s to the early 1980s because of a series of military interventions and the continent's experience with structural adjustment programmes (SAPs).

The approaches to development planning in Africa have evolved over time, influenced by different ideologies, development theories and global development agendas. The emphasis on investment as a driver of growth can be traced to the Harrod Domar growth model, while the push for import substitution industrialization is rooted in dependency theories of development. Global development agendas such as the Millennium Development Goals and Poverty Reduction Strategies have also shaped the development priorities of developing countries by encouraging a focus on social development and the eradication of



extreme poverty. Development planning in Africa will undoubtedly be influenced by the global agenda which has succeeded the Millennium Development Goals, namely the Sustainable Development Goals, which emphasize economic, social and environmental sustainability as key development objectives. Fortunately, unlike previous global agendas such as the Millennium Development Goals, which were drafted at an international level, Africa played a more assertive role in framing the Sustainable Development Goals. The new global agenda is accordingly very much aligned with the continent's development aspirations. It is, however, undoubtedly true that the achievement of the goals of the new global agenda will depend largely not on the agenda itself, but on the planners' capacity to design, implement and monitor development plans that work.

Africa's great success stories from its growing youthful population and a dynamic private sector development is faced with challenges of extreme poverty, inequality, governance, climate change, low investment and low firm productivity to achieve rapid, sustained growth rates that will transform lives of ordinary citizens in the continent. The problems are tantamount and embedment to growth and development in the continent.

**Required:**

- a) What is the gist of the case study? (10 Marks)
- b) While synchronizing on the case study, what are the pertinent issues and constraints facing African countries in current development planning and policy formulation? (10 Marks)
- c) In the case study extreme poverty is featured as a challenges facing African countries. What strategic measures have these countries in Africa put in place to eradicate extreme poverty in the continent? (10 Marks)

## QUESTION TWO

- a) The African economy remains underdeveloped despite decades of conceptualizing, formulating and implementing various types of economic policies and programmes. What are the root causes of underdevelopment in these African countries? (8 Marks)
- b) Discuss African governments' experiences and lessons learnt in formulation of planning policies for development of their countries. (7 Marks)

## QUESTION THREE

- a) A movement towards greater transparency and participation in governmental budget decisions is sweeping much of the world. The trend is apparent in developed countries in Africa, where broad budget reforms adopted in recent years placed great emphasis on transparency. Why do you think transparency and participation is important in budget making process? (8 Marks)
- b) What are the general principles and good practices observed while formulating monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems intended to improve the performance of institutions, programmes, projects? (7 Marks)

## QUESTION FOUR

- a) What do you understand by term public policy? (2 Marks)
- b) Discuss any two public policy analysis models you know (5 Marks)
- c) The declaration of the Global Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992 and the subsequent report, *Agenda 21 Chapter 8* which promotes "The Establishment of an Integrated Development Planning (IDP) Process". Why do you think IDP model is embraced globally as one of the best development planning approach? (8 Marks)